are not expressly banned under The Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950. However, the Act requires the prior permission of the Central Government for using any name which may suggest or be calculated to suggest the patronage of Government of India, State Governments and local authorities.

(c) The Government has already written to all the Chief Secretaries of States/UTs to ensure that such practices are stopped forthwith. The All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), through their Approval Process Handbook has been bringing to the notice to all concerned that the use of word Indian/National by any Institutions without its approval shall not be allowed. The AICTE through public notice is also advising all approved Institutions to change their names by dropping the word 'Indian and National etc' failing which, it may withdraw its approval.

Sale of PDS wheat in open market

t1980. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINOER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat and rice allotted under the public distribution system are sold on the black-market price in the open market instead being sold through the public distribution system;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether Government have collected information from each State in this regard;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether Government are considering to formulate any policy with regard to prevention of such a countrywide scam; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments wherein the Central Government is responsible for procurement of foodgrains (Rice & Wheat), storage and their transportation upto the Principal Distribution Centres of FCI and the State Governments are responsible for identification of beneficiaries, issue them ration cards and distribute foodgrains through a vast network of 4.83 lakh Fair Price Shops scattered all over the country. In such a vast network chances of irregularities can not be ruled out. However whenever a complaint is received by the Central Government it is forwarded to the concerned State Government for investigations and necessary remedial action.

(c) and (d) The study conducted during the year 2003-04 by ORG MARG, New Delhi on the evaluation of Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in the country on diversion of foodgrains (wheat and rice) has reported diversion in the most of the States. As per the ORG MARG Report, the diversion figures in respect of Wheat arid Rice for various States/UT Administrations has been as under:

Name of the State/UT	Diversion(%)	
	Rice	Wheat
Arunachal Pradesh	64.1	96.2
Assam	37.2	100.00
Bihar	14.7	44.7
Chhattisgarh	33.4	71.4
Delhi	10.5	25.1
Goa	42.9	Not Calculated
Gujarat	16.2	24.4
Haryana	Not Calculated	74.2
Himachal Pradesh	58.2	34.1
J&K	64.3	13.5
Jharkhand	Negligible	37.5

	Rice	Wheat
Kerala	Negligible	42.6
Madhya Pradesh	48.3	44.7
Maharashtra	Negligible	25.6
Manipur	97.7	100.0
Meghalaya	61.3	100.0
Mizoram	52.6	100.0
Nagaland	88.6	100.0
Rajasthan	Not Calculated	59.0
Sikkim	Negligible	100.0
Tripura	3.8	Not Calculated
Uttaranchal	53.3	58.0
Uttar Pradesh	32.4	59.1
West Bengal	34.9	86.6
D&N Haveli	48.5	69.4
All India	39.0	53.3

(e) and (f) A system to monitor distribution of foodgrains under TPDS is already in place. However, the following measures have been taken by the Government to reach the foodgrains to the beneficiaries:—

(i) The reports of the ORG MARG and the Programme Evaluation Organization have been sent to the State Governments for their comments. In addition, the issue of diversion has been discussed in the recently held Regional Conferences with the State Governments. The State Governments have however, expressed reservations in these conferences on the findings of the studies.

(ii) As regards diversion of the wheat particularly in the North Eastern States, the Central Government in addition to reducing wheat allocation in all rice eating states has also issued instructions that the custom of allowing flour mills to lift wheat

directly from the FCI godowns be stepped and the State Governments should ensure that the wheat after being milled is put back in the PDS net-work, for distribution to ration card holders.

(iii) In the recently held Regional Conferences with the State Governments the issue of diversion of foodgrains has been discussed at length and State Governments asked to take steps like door delivery of foodgrains, involvement of Self-Help Groups of stakeholders in distribution, computerization of PDS beneficiaries etc. The Chhattisgarh Government has reported that it has cancelled the Fair Price Shops licenses and with a view to ensuring better distribution has allotted Fair Price Shops to 3404 Gram Panchayats, 2753 Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies, 1587 Women's Self Help Groups, 243 Forest Protection Committees and 2032 Shops to other cooperative societies. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have taken up review of the BPL beneficiaries and have started issue of computerized ration cards alongwith bar coded coupons. Sikkim has also computerized the TPDS operations.

(iv) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 was issued in order to streamline the functioning of the PDS and to make the same more effective and accountable. Any offence committed in violation of the provisions of the Order invokes criminal liability under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(v) The State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations have been asked to actively involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions to monitor the functioning of the Fair Price Shops, as a measure of social audit.

(vi) The State and Union Territories have also been asked to constitute Vigilance Committees at the State, District, Block and FPS levels to oversee the functioning of PDS.

(vii) With a view to efficiently reaching PDS commodities to the consumers in a transparent manner, a model Citizen's Charter has been issued by the Central Government for adoption by the State Government/UT Administration.

(viii) Under the Area Officers Scheme, the Senior officers of the Government visits their allocated States/UTs to conduct review of the TPDS. The observations made by the Area Officers in their reports are sent to the concerned State Government/UT for taking necessary action.

Warehousing Development and Regulation Bill

1981. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are proposing to bring before the Parliament the Warehousing Development and Regulation Bill to make the warehouse receipts legally acceptable in all banks and the commodities markets and to provide regulation;

(b) whether the proposed Bill also contains provisions relating to gradation, standardization and other services to the commodities markets;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) what are the other salient features of the proposed Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government has introduced a Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2005 in the Winter Session of the Lok Sabha on 7th December, 2005 for making the warehouse receipt a fully negotiable instrument.

(d) There is a proposal for setting up a Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority for regulating the business of warehouses and for implementing the provisions of the proposed legislation.